David B. Picker, Esquire [DP-9658] SPECTOR GADON & ROSEN, P.C. 1635 Market Street, 7th Floor Philadelphia, PA 19103 (215) 241-8888 / FAX- (215) 241-8844 Lead Counsel For Plaintiffs

Edward Finkelstein, Esquire [EP-2805] TARTER, KRINSKY & DROGIN P.C. 1350 Broadway New York, New York 10018 Tel: 212-216-8000 / FAX- 212-216-8001 Local Counsel For Plaintiffs

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

DREAMLAND AMUSEMENTS, INC., TOY CIRCUS, INC., CROSSROADS TRUCKING CORP., ROBERT DESTEFANO, and KATHRYN DESTEFANO,

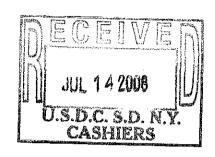
Plaintiffs,

v.

THE HONORABLE ANDREW M. CUOMO, ATTORNEY GENERAL OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK, OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL,

Defendant.





∠ASE Docket No.

COMPLAINT FOR DECLARATORY JUDGMENT AND INJUNCTIVE RELIEF

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The traveling carnival is a swathe cut from the fabric of small and mid-town America. "What kid from one to ninety-two" could contain his intense excitement and anticipation awaiting the arrival of the traveling carnival, bringing its thunderous rides, the smell of roasted peanuts, cotton candy leaving strands of sugar on his face, and the other sights and sounds that constitute the midway?

- 2. Apparently, the Office of the Attorney General of the State of New York is manned by people who as children were deprived of the opportunity to partake of and enjoy this paradigmatic slice of American life. Perhaps due to this deprivation, the New York State Attorney General has represented, both orally and in writing, that it believes that Plaintiffs have and are engaging in repeated fraudulent and illegal acts, and have demonstrated persistent fraud and illegality in conducting their traveling carnival. In this regard the prosecutors steadfastly claim both a right and duty to bring "justice" to the Plaintiffs' mobile carnival for its operations both within the State of New York and each of the other half-score states to which Plaintiffs bring their mobile carnival. The New York State Attorney General has repeatedly represented both orally and in writing that the "fraud" and "persistent illegality" consists entirely of Plaintiffs' alleged failures to pay temporary, seasonal alien workers compensation as set forth in the contract of Plaintiff Dreamland Amusements, Inc. with the United States Department of Labor. Moreover, consistent with its powers to bring both civil and criminal proceedings, and particularly for "repeated fraudulent and illegal acts" and "persistent fraud and illegality", the New York State Attorney General has acknowledged that it could well bring criminal proceedings against Plaintiffs. Plaintiffs currently employ approximately twenty such workers.
- 3. Plaintiffs vehemently deny that Dreamland or any one of them breached any term or condition of Dreamland's contract with the United States Department of Labor in any respect, much less the alleged failure to pay to the 20 alien, seasonal employees the appropriate wages pursuant to Dreamland's contract with the Federal Government, as well as any suggestion that Dreamland or any of the other plaintiffs engaged in "repeated fraudulent or illegal acts" or demonstrated "persistent fraud or illegality" in connection with the performance of the

conditions of the contract between Dreamland and the United States Department of Labor.¹ It will so prove, should any investigative authority with jurisdiction over the subject matter of the investigation and/or the power and duty to construe Dreamland's contract with the United States Department of Labor see fit to make a formal or informal inquiry or undertake an investigation.

- 4. The New York State Attorney General is not such an entity. To the contrary, preemption precludes the New York State Attorney General from investigating, much less prosecuting, any claims of repeated fraudulent or illegal acts or persistent fraud or illegality with respect to Dreamland's performance under its contract with the United States Department of Labor, or the breach of the contract itself. Moreover, assuming, arguendo, that preemption did not absolutely bar the New York State Attorney General from investigating and prosecuting these claims, the question whether Dreamland has complied with or breached its contract with the United States Department of Labor is itself vested solely within the United States Department of Labor, the United States Department of Homeland Security, and the United States Attorney General, pursuant to the statutory and regulatory scheme erected by the Federal Government in furtherance of its exclusive powers over immigration and commerce as are set forth in Article I, § 8, Clauses 3 and 4 of the United States Constitution.
- 5. Plaintiffs have repeatedly advised the State Attorney General, both in writing and in lengthy letter memoranda containing analysis and authorities, that the Attorney General has no

In the interest of full disclosure, the New York State Attorney General has represented orally and in writing that its investigation also includes alleged violations of the Federal Civil Rights Laws and the Federal employment discrimination laws set forth in Title VII of the United States Code, pegging the Federal civil rights and Federal employment violations upon its investigation which it states has disclosed thus far that the port-a-potties that Plaintiffs lease from unrelated third parties for use by their employees, including the alien, seasonal workers, at their tour stops are poorly maintained, and that Dreamland's employees, including the alien, seasonal workers, are forced to work outdoors during inclement weather at tour stops without being given ponchos at Plaintiffs' cost. Plaintiffs are prepared to meet these allegations of Federal civil rights and Federal employment violations head-on. These matters, however, are not the subject of the instant complaint.

right or power to pursue civil or criminal actions against any of the plaintiffs due to preemption and the fact that the prosecution hinges solely upon an interpretation of duties and obligations under Dreamland's contract with the United States Department of Labor, committed solely to that federal department and its federal designes. The entreaties and analyses have fallen on deaf ears.

- 6. Plaintiffs are therefore faced with an ongoing civil and potentially criminal prosecution that is beyond the right, power, or duty of the State Attorney General to pursue and prosecute. Moreover, the strident demands from the State Attorney General manifest that the prosecution is ongoing and the risks to Plaintiffs from prosecution, however misguided, are serious and imminent.
- 7. As a result, Plaintiffs are compelled to file the instant Complaint for Declaratory Judgment and Injunctive Relief, seeking an order precluding the State Attorney General from proceeding with its prosecution of Plaintiffs for alleged violations of Dreamland's contract with the United States Department of Labor, and any fraudulent or illegal acts or persistent fraud or illegality in connection therewith were there any based upon preemption and the paramount federal question.

II. **PARTIES**

Plaintiff Dreamland Amusements, Inc. (hereinafter "Dreamland") is an entity incorporated under the laws of the State of New Hampshire. It had in the past been incorporated by mistake under the laws of New York, and has been inactive. Dreamland has undertaken steps preparatory to dissolution of the corporation in New York. For the purposes of this action, it has an address of 2 Olympia Lane, Stony Brook, New York 11790.

- Plaintiff Toy Circus, Inc. (hereinafter "Toy Circus") is an entity incorporated 9. under the laws of the State of New York. For the purposes of this action, it has an address of 2 Olympia Lane, Stony Brook, New York 11790.
- Plaintiff Crossroads Trucking Corp. (hereinafter "Crossroads") is an entity 10. incorporated under the laws of the State of New York. For the purposes of this action, it has an address of 2 Olympia Lane, Stony Brook, New York 11790.
- Dreamland, Toy Circus and Crossroads, own, operate and transport the mobile 11. carnival business generally known as Dreamland.
- Plaintiff Robert DeStefano is an owner, officer and/or operator of Dreamland, 12. Toy Circus and Crossroads. For the purposes of this action, he has an address of 2 Olympia Lane, Stony Brook, New York 11790.
- Plaintiff Kathryn DeStefano is an owner, officer and/or operator of Dreamland, 13. Toy Circus and Crossroads. For the purposes of this action, he has an address of 2 Olympia Lane, Stony Brook, New York 11790.
- Defendant The Honorable Andrew Cuomo is the Attorney General of the State of 14. New York. He is sued in his individual capacity. The Office of the Attorney General of the State of New York is a unit of state government that is charged with representing the interests of the State of New York in civil and criminal proceedings, limited to those previous granted to it by statute. It has an address of 120 Broadway, New York City, New York, 10271.

JURISDICTION AND VENUE III.

Original jurisdiction resides in this Honorable Court pursuant to the Supremacy 15. Clause of the United States Constitution, Article VI, Clause 2, as implied and as otherwise provided for under 28 U.S.C. § 1343; under 28 U.S.C. § 1331, in that the instant action arises under the constitution, laws, and treaties of the United States, under 28 U.S.C. § 1337, in that the matter arises under Acts of Congress regulating commerce inter alia; and under the Declaratory Judgment Act, 28 U.S.C. § 2201, in that an actual controversy exists, threating Plaintiffs with an unfounded prosecution by anemtity lacking jurisdiction.

Venue is vested in this Honorable Court under 28 U.S.C. § 1391(b) in that the 16. defendant resides within this district and a substantial part of the events or omissions giving rise to the claims of relief occurred and are occurring within this district.

IV. FACTS GIVING RISE TO CLAIMS FOR RELIEF

The Business of Dreamland and its Limited Operations in New York A.

- Dreamland, Toy Circus and Crossroads are a nomadic, mobile carnival, generally 17. partnering with charitable, non-profit organizations as part of their fund-raising efforts. For much of the year, Dreamland operates its carnival with its charitable organization partners in small and mid-sized towns in states up and down the East Coast of the United States.
- For 2008, Dreamland is bringing its carnival to venues such as New London, 18. Connecticut; West Chester, Pennsylvania; Westport, Connecticut; Leonia, New Jersey; Mt. Pocono, Pennsylvania; Bud Lake, New Jersey; New Haven, Vermont; Bennington, Vermont; Lyndonville, Vermont; Lancaster, New Hampshire; Ledyard, Connecticut; Fort Bragg, North Carolina; Augusta, Georgia; and other small and mid-sized cities and towns along the East Coast of the United States. This year Dreamland will operate at New York State venues, such as Islip, Levittown, Farmingdale and New Paltz. Dreamland will operate its mobile amusement park at New York State venues for approximately six weeks during the year 2008, with some stops as short as three days. Nonetheless, the New York State Attorney General purports to prosecute

Plaintiffs for their activities throughout the length and breadth of their tour stops based upon those few occurring within New York State.

B. <u>Dreamland is Exempt from Federal and State Minimum Wage, Hour and Overtime Strictures</u>

- 19. The federal Fair Labor Standards Act, 29 U.S.C. § 201 et seq., sets forth minimum wage, hour and overtime strictures generally governing the relationship between employers and employees. 29 U.S.C. §§ 206, 207. Certain industries and businesses have been exempted from the wages, hours and overtime provisions of the Fair Labor Standards Act (hereinafter "F.L.S.A."), including Dreamland and Toy Circus.
- 20. 29 U.S.C. § 213(a), headed "Minimum Wage and Maximum Hour Requirements," exempts amusement and/or recreational establishments from the minimum wage and maximum hour requirements. The statute reads, in relevant part:

The provisions of § 206... and § 207 of this Title shall not apply with respect to --- (3) any employee employed by an establishment which is an amusement or recreational establishment...if (A) it does not operate for more than seven months in any calendar year, or (B) during the preceding calendar year, its average receipts for any six months of such year were not more than 33½ per centum of its average receipts for the other six months of such year...

21. For certain years Dreamland did not operate its core business for more than seven months in any calendar year. For each year, however, its average receipts for any six months of such year are not more than ½ of its average receipts for the other six months. Thus, Dreamland is exempt from the minimum wage and maximum hour requirements of the F.L.S.A., and its employees, including its 20 H- 2 B employees, are not covered by the F.L.S.A. minimum wage and maximum hour requirements.\²

Not surprisingly, the F.L.S.A. amusement establishment exemption is mirrored in the Code of Federal regulations. 29 CFR 779.385.

- 22. The New York Labor Laws contain the amusement enterprise exemption as well, as they must in view of the supremacy clause. See e.g., 12 NYCRR §§ 142-3.2, 142-2.2
- Thus, Congress has carved out a class of employees of businesses such as 23. Dreamland from the receipt of wages, hours and overtime as otherwise required by federal law. New York State has, perforce, followed suit.
- From the inception of Spector, Gadon & Rosen's representation of Plaintiffs, on 24. June 2, 2008, in response to an office subpoena of the New York State Attorney General dated May 23, 2008, Plaintiffs have submitted 10,665 documents, each of which has been batesstamped and listed as responsive to specific paragraphs of the State Attorney General's twentyseven separate paragraph subpoena, many of which paragraphs contain multiple subsections. Review of those documents discloses that Dreamland is an exempt amusement establishment under both federal and New York law, had only the State Attorney General reviewed the documents.

C. Dreamland's Workforce and its Contracts with the United States Department of Labor

Likely due to the fact that Dreamland is an exempt amusement enterprise so that 25. wages, hours and overtime do not apply to employees of Dreamland, and because high costs of operation and limited ability to generate income effectively preclude mobile carnivals such as Dreamland from deriving sufficient revenues to pay United States born workers a wage sufficient to induce employment with Dreamland, Dreamland is compelled to look beyond the borders of the United States in order to find workers who are willing to be itinerant mobile carnival employees in return for wages that mobile carnivals such as Dreamland can afford to pay and remain in business. Dreamland currently employs approximately one score such foreign national workers each of whom has "H-2B" visas issued by the Federal Government.

26. In this regard, in order to obtain temporary, seasonal employees from foreign countries, Dreamland must, as must all others similarly situated, must first advertise for native-born workers and certify to the United States Department of Labor that their temporary need for the alien employees is based upon their inability to obtain native-born workers. In this regard, the form that entities such as Dreamland must submit to the Department of Homeland Security, United States Citizenship and Immigration Services³ in connection with its request for permission to employ alien seasonal workers requires the submission of precisely such justification. The form submitted by Dreamland for the year 2008 recites under Section 2(3) under "Explain your temporary need for the alien's services" the following:

DUE TO THE SHORTAGE OF U.S. WORKERS TO FILL THE LABORER POSITIONS WITH OUR ANNUAL TOURS, WE HAVE A CRITICAL NEED FOR TEMPORARY WORKERS TO ERECT LOADING AND UNLOADING BEFORE/AFTER EACH TOUR STOP. WE HAVE ADVERTISED AND RECRUITED ONCE AGAIN PER THE GUIDELINES AND INSTRUCTIONS AS SET FORTH BY THE DOL/INS FOR THIS JOB CATEGORY.

WE HAVE ALSO POSTED HELP-WANTED SIGNS AT THE VARIOUS CITIES THAT WE TRAVEL TO DURING OUR TOURS.

BECAUSE THIS JOB INVOLVES OUTDOOR WORK, MANY PEOPLE BECOME DISCOURAGED BY HAVING TO WORK IN THE ELEMENTS (HEAT, COLD, RAIN, ETC.). HOWEVER, THE MAIN PROBLEM IS FINDING PEOPLE THAT ARE WILLING/ABLE TO TRAVEL ON TOUR TO THE VARIOUS LOCATIONS FOR THE ENTIRE DURATION OF OUR OPERATING SEASON. THESE REASONS MENTIONED ALSO MAKE THIS TEMPORARY NEED NECESSARY FOR US TO BE ABLE TO CONTINUE TO OPERATE SUCCESSFULLY AND TO MEET OUR COMMITMENTS AND NOT LOSE OUR DATES TO THE COMPETITION.

27. This certification by Dreamland to the United States Department of Homeland Security and the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services is crucial in order to comport with the Immigration and Naturalization Acts. These Acts aim to ensure that United States workers are not displaced from obtaining employment by alien, seasonal workers. See, e.g., 8 U.S.C. § 1101(a)(H)(ii)(b)(setting out the power of the United States Congress to enact

The form is the H Classification Supplement to Form I-129.

laws governing aliens residing in a foreign country which they have no intention of abandoning, who come to the United States "to perform temporary service or labor if unemployed persons capable of performing such services or labor cannot be found in this country.") (emphasis supplied). The seasonal, temporary alien employees sought by Dreamland have H-2B visas based upon this subsection of 8 U.S.C. § 1101(a).

- The process of obtaining H-2B workers for enterprises such as Dreamland is one 28. governed solely and exclusively by federal law, with each and every step in the process committed exclusively to the United States Department of Labor, the United States Department of Homeland Security, the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services and the United States Attorney General.
- 29. The document upon which the New York State Attorney General bases his prosecution of Plaintiffs is a two page component of the massive documentation submitted by and for Dreamland to the United States Department of Labor and its designees in multiple federal departments, and their agencies and bureaus within, in order to obtain H-2B employees.
- 30. Those here at issue, and upon which the State Attorney General purports to base its prosecution, however misguided, are the United States Department of Labor, Employment and Training Administration Forms ETA-750A.4
- Those filed by Dreamland in anticipation of the 2006, 2007 and 2008 Dreamland 31. mobile carnival tours are attached hereto as Exhibit "A".5

^{4\} Neither Crossroads nor Toy Circus has ever applied for or employed any alien with an H-2B visa.

The original office subpoena propounded by the State Attorney General on May 23, 2008 covers the period from January 1, 2006 through the present. On July 8, the State Attorney General served by email a supplemental subpoena purporting to cover the period July 8, 2002 through December 31, 2005. The earlier forms are similar or identical in all material reports.

- 32. Review of the federal form ETA-750 is instructive. First, each is signed and submitted four to six months before the year within which the H-2B employee will be working. Before the tour stops are finalized, the precise numbers of employees required and such niceties even as the length of the season are not known or knowable as of the time of submission of the form ETA-750 to the United States Department of Labor. Moreover, as is reflected on the first page of each of the forms, all enclosures must also be submitted to the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services and the United States Department of Homeland Security.
- 33. The two-page "Application for Alien Employment Certification" contains at paragraph 23 (b) under "Employer certifications" the following language:

The wage offered equals or exceeds the prevailing wage and I guarantee that if a labor certification is granted, the wage paid to the alien when the alien begins work will equal or exceed the prevailing wage which is applicable at the time the alien begins work.

- 34. There is not, nor could there be, any specific guarantee contained in the Federal Form ETA-750, with respect to the number H-2B workers Dreamland will employ or the number of hours each employee will work per week, much less the number of hours of overtime. What is instructive, however, is the absence of any guarantee of hours of work, much less hours of overtime. For example, Block 10 on the Federal Form ETA-750 submitted to the United States Department of Labor by Dreamland for 2006, recites an estimate of 40 hours basic and no overtime per week with no rate of payment for overtime, and instead lists a basic weekly rate of pay of \$310.80 per H -2B employee. This submission was approved by the United States.
- 35. The New York State Attorney General has represented orally and in writing that the violations it has found of "repeated fraudulent and illegal acts" or "persistent fraud and illegality" are premised solely upon its contention that Dreamland repeatedly failed to pay to its H -2B employees the prevailing wage, as required by paragraph 23(b) of the certification

Dreamland made to the United States Department of Labor and the United States Department of Homeland Security. The New York State Attorney General has thus created out of whole cloth, from an issue of illegal breach of Dreamland's contract with the Department of Labor, a "repeated and persistent fraud and fraudulent misrepresentation" investigation encompassing wages paid by Dreamland to its H-2B employees at each and every small and mid-sized town throughout the Eastern United States at which Dreamland sets up its mobile carnival.

36. In so purporting to act, the New York State Attorney General has arrogated unto himself the power to investigate, interpret, implement and penalize what it contends are breaches of Dreamland's contract with the United States Department of Labor. This the law precludes.

D. Preemption and the Supremacy Clause

- 37. The powers of the United States Congress over Commerce and Immigration are exclusive and paramount, as set forth in Article I, Section 8, Clauses 3 and 4 of the United States Constitution. These hold sway over states and their agents, as required by Article VI, Clause 2, the Supremacy Clause. The need for the paramount and exclusive jurisdiction being vested in federal agencies is even more pointed in the aftermath of September 11, and the resulting plethora of federal enactments governing aliens and the conduct and circumstances governing their entry into the United States by the Federal Government as part of its comprehensive immigration program.
- Every aspect of immigration, including that pertaining to seasonal workers, is 38. specifically set forth at length in phone-book sized volumes within the United States Code and the United States Code of Federal Regulations.
- 39. 8 U.S.C. § 1101(a)H(ii)(b) sets out the power of the United States Congress to enact laws governing aliens residing in a foreign country seeking to perform the temporary

service or labor in this country "if unemployed persons capable of performing such service or labor cannot be found". Exercising that power, the secretary of the Department of Homeland Security, the Attorney General of the United States, and the Secretary of the United States Department of Labor have been exclusively vested with the "administration and enforcement of the chapter and all other laws relating to the immigration and naturalization of aliens" as set forth therein. See, e.g., 8 U.S.C. § 1102(a). The powers so vested are virtually co-extensive with the power to regulate immigration. See, e.g., 8 U.S.C. § 1103, including (g) thereunder.

- 40. A sub-set of that broad grant of power is found within 8 U.S.C. § 1184 headed "Admission of Non-Immigrants". Pursuant to that statute, at subsection (a), the admission of any alien as a non-immigrant "for such time and other such conditions" as the Federal Executive Branch may prescribe is squarely-bottomed. Within that section are provisions imposing fraud prevention and detection fees upon employers filing false Forms ETA-750 and other petitions. 8 U.S.C. § 1184(c)(13)(A) and (B). This statute also empowers the Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security\6 to hold hearings and, after notice and an opportunity to be heard, impose fines and penalties upon an employer who submits false or fraudulent applications in order to obtain, inter alia, H-2B employees. See, e.g., 8 U.S.C. § 1184(c)(14)(A).
- The United States Code of Federal Regulations contains more than thirty pages 41. addressing only seasonal alien temporary workers. 8 CFR § 214.2(h)(1), et seq., sets forth the procedures governing the representations by contract with the United States Department of Labor

Notably, although the Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security may, by 8 U.S.C. sec. 1184(c)(14)(B), delegate to the Secretary of Labor these investigative and enforcement duties and rights, the Department of Homeland Security has, to date, chosen not to do so. Rather, the Department of Homeland Security, in a clear indication of its desire to maintain its exclusive authority over this area of immigration regulation, has solely retained the rights of investigation and enforcement.

binding upon petitioners such as Dreamland seeking H-2B workers, <u>including wages and</u> however other terms and conditions of employment.

- 42. The Secretary of Labor and thereafter the Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security and their federal designees, have both the power and jurisdiction to approve H-2B contracts and thereafter enforce and investigate each and every instance in which the petitioning employer has failed to meet the statutorily required contractual conditions for obtaining the seasonal alien laborers. Indeed, under § 214.2(h)(11)(B), the Director may revoke a petition at any time, even after its expiration, based upon the petitioner's statement of facts contained in the petition being "not true and correct" or if the petitioner has "violated the terms and conditions of the approved petition" or any of the other standards set forth therein.
- 43. Moreover, each and every false statement to the federal authorities subjects each petitioner to felony prosecution for false statements, 18 U.S.C. § 1001; mail fraud, 18 U.S.C. § 1341; or even RICO, 18 U.S.C. § 1961. Thus the exhaustive and inclusive H-2B federal regime is comprehensive, including civil and criminal penalties for any who run afoul of the form ETA-750 contract between petitioners such as Dreamland and the United States.
- 44. Plaintiffs respectfully submit that there is a preemption precluding the New York State Attorney General from prosecuting Plaintiffs for any claimed violations of the contract between Dreamland and the United States Department of Labor. Even were there no statutory preemptions, such as that set forth in 8 U.S.C. § 1324(a)(h)(2), case law would compel it. Otherwise each of fifty (50) attorneys general would be free to prosecute ETA-750 issues as each saw fit.

E. The Prosecution of Plaintiffs by the New York State Attorney General Continues

- 45. From the retention of Spector Gadon & Rosen, on June 2, 2008 in response to the original office subpoenas propounded by the New York State Attorney General to Plaintiffs on May 23, 2008, Plaintiffs through their undersigned counsel have been cooperating with the New York State Attorney General. In addition to supplying 10,665 documents responsive to the subpoenas, all with express reservations of rights, counsel as well has repeatedly in oral and written communications to the New York State Attorney General provided the statutes establishing the amusement enterprise exemption and the statutes and authorities, together with analyses, manifesting beyond peradventure, that the subject matter of the prosecution is preempted by the United States statutes and regulations and applicable case law, as well as manifesting that the breach of contract question on which the New York State Attorney General hinges his investigation is itself a federal question, whose answer is committed exclusively to the United States Department of Labor and Homeland Security, with enforcement by the United States Attorney General. See, e.g., counsel's letter of July 8, 2008 to Chief and Assistant Attorney General's Balletta, Birnbaum, Marblestone, and Elmore attached hereto as Exhibit "B".
- 46. The New York State Attorney General, representing it has already found violations, has responded to the analyses and citations to authority, such as those set forth in Exhibit "B", without any analysis at all, stating simply "We have already addressed the substantive arguments that you raise." Instead of heeding the Federal Government's clear, exclusive jurisdiction, the New York State Attorney General has propounded an additional subpoena dated July 8 to each of the plaintiffs, demanding documents and testimony pertaining

to the Federal Form ETA-750's, this time covering the period from July 8, 2002 through December 31, 2005.⁷

F. Plaintiffs are Threatened by State Actions

- 47. The State Attorney General has already represented that he has found violations as a result of his investigation. Despite preemption and the fact that the state's investigation hinges upon the interpretations by the United States Departments of Labor and Homeland Security of a contract entered into between Dreamland and the United States Department of Labor, the State Attorney General is not only proceeding with, but also expanding his investigation and prosecution of Plaintiffs, in spite of the fact that he lacks the right or power to investigate, much less prosecute any issue regarding Dreamland's breach of its contract with the United States Department of Labor, much less notions of persistent fraud in connection with the entry into and performance under that contract.
- 48. Plaintiffs have been and will continue to be harmed thereby, unless this Honorable Court grants them the relief to which they are entitled.

COUNT I – DECLARATORY JUDGMENT

- 49. The averments set forth in paragraphs 1 45 supra, are incorporated by reference as though fully set forth.
- 50. As is set forth hereinbefore, the New York State Attorney General claims it has has found violations and is continuing to investigate and prosecute Plaintiffs for serious and substantial civil and criminal allegations of fraud, all predicated solely upon the Attorney

The unusual inception date of July 8, 2002 set forth in the additional office subpoena dated July 8, 2008 is premised upon the State Attorney General's contention that under New York law he has the power to recover full wages, benefits and wage supplements accruing during the preceding six years for Dreamland's failure to pay the H-2B prevailing wages as indicated on Dreamland's ETA-750s, which "repeated and persistent failure" and "illegality" the State Attorney General claims falls within his jurisdiction.

General's contention that Dreamland violated its Federal Form ETA-750 contracts with the United States Department of Labor and signed the contract with the intent to do so.

- 51. Dreamland has not breached any of the terms and conditions of its Form ETA-750 contracts with the United States Department of Labor. Assuming, *arguendo*, it had so violated, it is crystal clear that the determination whether there is a breach, the procedures to attach to such determination, and the remedies to be applied in the event of such a breach lie wholly within the realm of the Federal Government and beyond the reach or power or jurisdiction of the New York State Attorney General, due to preemption.
- 52. Moreover, the precise question whether the conduct of Dreamland in paying wages to the H-2B employees breached or did not breach the Dreamland contracts with the United States Department of Labor may be determined only by the United States Departments of Labor and/or Homeland Security.
- 53. Yet, despite preemption and the overriding federal question, the State Attorney General claims to have found violations and vows to continue and has indeed expanded his prosecution of Plaintiffs.
- 54. As set forth, supra, these facts constitute an actual controversy within the jurisdiction of this Honorable Court. In this regard, the controversy is actual, immediate and real, based upon the threat of litigation and the reasonable apprehension of Plaintiffs to the threat of litigation in view of the representations of the State Attorney General.
- 55. Plaintiffs have thus established a substantial controversy between parties having adverse legal interests of sufficient immediacy and reality to warrant the issuance of a declaratory judgment.

Moreover, where the substantial controversy involves the threat of prosecution by 56. an agency of the government, persons such as Plaintiffs need not expose themselves to liability before bringing suit to challenge the basis of the threat.

Document 1

WHEREFORE, Plaintiffs respectfully pray that this Honorable Court enter an Order decreeing:

- That preemption blocks the New York State Attorney General from prosecuting (1)any claim based in whole or in part on the construction or interpretation of the contracts between Dreamland and the United States Department of Labor, such as those attached as Exhibit "A" to this complaint;
- That the determination whether there is a breach by Dreamland of any or each of (2)the provisions of the Form ETA-750 contracts with the United States Department of Labor lies solely within the departments and agencies of the United States; and
 - That any other relief deemed necessary, proper or equitable be awarded. (3)

COUNT II- INJUNCTION

- The averments set forth in paragraphs 1 53 supra, are incorporated by reference 57. as though fully set forth.
- As is set forth hereinbefore, the New York State Attorney General is purporting to 58. prosecute an action, the substance of which has been pre-empted by the United States, so that he lacks any right or power to proceed in the matter.
- As is set forth hereinbefore, even were the Attorney General somehow entitled to 59. proceed with his prosecution of the matter under investigation despite preemption, nonetheless his investigation hinges solely upon the interpretation of a contract between Dreamland and the

United States Department of Labor, thereby presenting a federal question over which the State Attorney General has no jurisdiction and respecting which he looks standing.

- Thus, the State Attorney General has no power or jurisdiction or legal right to 60. continue with this investigation and prosecution of any Plaintiff herein.
- Nonetheless, the Attorney General continues to do so, even expanding the 61. temporal scope of his prosecution of Plaintiffs.
- Plaintiffs have been and continue to be harmed by the legal and unlawful actions 62. of the New York State Attorney General.
- Plaintiffs submit that they lack an adequate remedy at law, in that the disruption 63. to their business and lives from the prosecution by the State Attorney General can never be remedied, and they are unlikely to ever recover the substantial costs they have borne and will continue to bear in responding to the unlawful and improper prosecution of them by the State Attorney General.
- Based upon the facts as set forth hereinbefore, Plaintiffs respectfully submit that, 64. absent granting them the injunctive relief sought, they are likely to suffer irreparable harm before a decision on the merits can be rendered.
- Plaintiffs respectfully submit that granting them the injunctive relief they seek 65. eliminates the substantial hardship they are currently incurring, while imposing limited hardship upon the New York State Attorney General, particularly given the showing made herein that he lacks the power, jurisdiction and standing to prosecute Plaintiffs for his creative but unfounded manufacturing of state law, civil and criminal offenses, based solely on an allegation that Dreamland breached its contracts with the United States Department of Labor, pursuant to which it obtained H-2B employees.

- 66. Plaintiffs respectfully submit that based on what has been set forth hereinbefore, they have established a substantial likelihood of success on the merits.
- 67. Plaintiffs respectfully submit that based on what has been set forth herein before, the public interest would be furthered by granting the sought relief for each of the following reasons:
- (1) the public interest is furthered by precluding prosecutorial agencies from initiating and pursuing proceedings over which they have no jurisdiction;
- (2) the public interest is furthered by maintaining and enforcing the constitutional limitations imposed upon the powers of states and their attorney generals, whenever the subject matter at issue has been pre-empted or presents a federal question whose resolution is vested solely within the Federal Government; and
- (3) as set forth hereinbefore, the determination whether contracts between persons such as Dreamland who seek seasonal, alien workers under the federal H-2B program have breached or complied with the provisions of the contract each signs with the United States Department of Labor cannot be subject to the caprice, whim, or analysis of each of the fifty state attorneys general, but rather, must be determined by the Federal Government, the only governmental entity with whom each applicant for H-2B employees must contract.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiffs respectfully pray that this Honorable Court enter a preliminary injunction decreeing:

(1) That preemption blocks the New York State Attorney General is enforced from prosecuting any claim based in whole or in part on the construction or interpretation of the contracts between Dreamland and the United States Department of Labor, attached as Exhibit "A" to this complaint; and

(2) The determination whether there is a breach by Dreamland of any or each of the provisions of the Form ETA-750 contract with the United States Department of Labor including these attached as Exhibit "A", lies solely within the jurisdiction and power of the departments and agencies of the United States.

Respectfully submitted,

SPECTOR GADON & ROSEN, PC

Bruce L. Thall, Esquire Heather M. Eichenbaum, Esquire 1635 Market Street, 7th Floor Philadelphia, PA 191103 215-241-8888/ FAX-215-241-8844 By: 1)a

David B. Picker, Esquire [DP. 9658]

1635 Market Street, 7th Floor Philadelphia, PA 19103

215-241-8888 /FAX- 215-241-8844

By:

Edward Finkelstein, Esquire [EF-2805]

TARTER, KKINSKY & DROGIN P.C.

1350 Broadway

New York, New York 10018

212-216-8000 / FAX- 212-216-8001

Local Counsel For Plaintiffs

Case 1:08-cv-06321-JGK Document 1 Filed

Filed 07/14/2008 Page 22 of 39

U.S. Department of Labor

Employment and Training Administration

Chicago National Processing Center 844 N. Rush Street 12th Floor Chicago, IL 60611



FINAL DETERMINATION

January 20, 2006

DREAMLAND AMUSEMENTS c/o Joe A, Nichols Law Office of Joe A. Nichols, P. A. 1033 W. First Street, Suite B Sanford, FL 32771

ETA Case Number: C-0 State Case # 200

Occupation:

C-06020-07301 20050036260

Number of Openings:

s: 40

Circus Laborer

Period of Certification:

January 05, 2006 - November 01,

2006

In reply refer to: Mary Glusak

The Department of Labor has made a final determination on your application for certification of temporary alien employment pursuant to Title 20, Code of Federal Regulations, Part 655.

The Application for Alien Employment Certification, Form ETA 750A, has been certified and is enclosed. All enclosures are required to be submitted to the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, U.S. Department of Homeland Security, at:

U.S. Department of Homeland Security U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services Vermont Service Center 75 Lower Weldon St. Saint Albans, VT 05479

for consideration with your petition (Form I-129).

The employer is advised if filing for H-2B visas for carnival laborers next year, he must file his application under the guidelines of GAL 1-95 and not the guidelines for entertainers.

Sincerely,

Marie Gonzalez Certifying Officer

CC: DREAMLAND AMUSEMENTS

Attachments: Form ETA 750A

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF LAB Employment and Training Administrati

APPLICATION FOR

ALIEN EMPLOYMENT CERTIFICATION

OMB Approval No. 44-R1301
IMPORTANT: READ C. FULLY BEFORE COMPLETING THIS FORM
PRINT legibly in ink or use a sypewriter. If you need more space to answer questions on this form, use a separate sheet. Identify each answer with the number of the corresponding question. SIGN AND DATE each sheet in original signature.

sheet in original signature.

To knowlingly furnish any false information in the preparation of this form and any supplement thereto or to aid, abet, or counsel another to do so is a fetony punishable by \$10,000 fine or 5 years in the pentientiary, or both (IRTISC 1001).

OYMENT

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Not in USA.	- 12 - 12 - 12 - 12 - 12 - 12 - 12 - 12	a man San St. 9	1. V. J.	1	٠.
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• •		•		and Number)	
DREAMLAND AMUSEMENTS	p. Wata,			516-901-29	IQQ
3. Address (Number, Street, City or Town, Country, State, Zip Code)	torit.	**************************************	·	1510-301-23	7QG.
2 Olympia Lane, Stony Brook, NY. 11790					
7. Address Where Allen Will Work (if different from item 6)					
Traveling Carnival on US Tour					
8. Nature of Employer's Business 9: Name of Job Title Activity	10. Total Hour		11. Work Schedule	12. Rate of Pay	
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and Wag	wage offered equals or i goarantee that, if a lat e paid to the alien who	or certificaten the alien	íon is grante begins wor	ed, the k will	£	_	opportunity is not:	
	at or exceed the prevail the time the alien begins		ich is appl	icable		ì	/acant because the former occups s being locked out in the or lispute involving a work stoppage.	
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U.S. Department of Labor

Employment and Training Administration

Chicago National Processing Center

844 N. Rush Street

12th Floor

Chicago, IL 60611



FINAL DETERMINATION

November 07, 2006

DREAMLAND AMUSEMENTS INC c/o MALCOLM SEHEULT 15210 WATERLINE ROAD BRADENTON, FL 34212 ETA Case Number:

C-06311-14820

State Case #:

20060002710

Number of Openings:

45

Occupation:

Ride Operator

Period of Certification:

January 17, 2007 - November 06,

2007

In reply refer to:

Mary Glusak

The Department of Labor has made a final determination on your application for certification of temporary alien employment pursuant to Title 20, Code of Federal Regulations, Part 655.

The Application for Alien Employment Certification, Form ETA 750A, has been certified and is enclosed. All enclosures are required to be submitted to the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, U.S. Department of Homeland Security, at:

U.S. Department of Homeland Security U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services Vermont Service Center 75 Lower Welden St. Saint Albans, VT 05479

for consideration with your petition (Form I-129).

Sincerely,

Marie Gonzalez Certifying Officer

CC: DREAMLAND AMUSEMENTS INC

Attachments: Form ETA 750A

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR Soyment and Training Administrati

APPLICATION FOR ALIEN EMPLOYMENT CERTIFICATION

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U.S. Department of Labor

Employment and Training Administration

Chicago National Processing Center 844 N. Rush Street 12th Floor

Chicago, IL 60611



FINAL DETERMINATION

November 01, 2007

DREAMLAND AMUSEMENT, INC. c/o JKJ WORKFORCE, TESS HARRISON

32755 FM 106

RIO HONDO, TX 78583

ETA Case Number:

C-07303-28899

State Case Number:

20070004340

Number of Openings:

55 Occupation: Ride Operator

Period of Certification:

December 26, 2007 - November 09,

2008

The Department of Labor has made a final determination on your application for certification of temporary alien employment pursuant to Title 20, Code of Federal Regulations, Part 655.

The Application for Alien Employment Certification, Form ETA 750A, has been certified and is enclosed.

Upon receipt of this notification, you will need to submit the appropriate Form I-129 which is required in conjunction with an H-2B temporary labor certification application to the following address:

> U.S. Department of Homeland Security U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) California Service Center Attn: I-129 P. O. Box 10129 Laguna Niguel, CA 92607-1012

The USCIS I-129 form can be obtained at http://www.immigration.gov.

Sincerely,

Marie Gonzalez Certifying Officer

CC: DREAMLAND AMUSEMENT, INC.

Attachments: Form ETA 750A

OMB Approval No. 44-R1301

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR Employment and Training Administration

APPLICATION FOR ALIEN EMPLOYMENT CERTIFICATION

IMPORTANT: READ CAREFULLY BEFORE CONFLETING THIS FORM FRIRIT logiby in ink or use a type-ution. If you need more space to on siver questions in this form, use a separate sheet. Identity each some with the number of the corresponding question. SIGN AND DATE each wheat in original algositude.

To knowlengly furnish any false information in the proparation of this form and any supplanted thereto or so all, abot, or coursed another to do so is a feliony pushable by \$10,000 fine or 6 years in the pententiary, or both [15.U.S.C., 1901]

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16. COMPLETE ITEMS	OMPLETE ITEMS ONLY IF JOB IS TEMPORARY				IZED (Compl	ste)				
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Under Job Offer 55	12/26/07			N/A	c, City and State					
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Document 1

SPECTOR GADON & ROSEN, P.C.

NEW JERSEY OFFICE: 1000 LENOLA ROAD P.O. BOX 1001 MOORESTOWN, NJ 08057 [856] 778-8100 FAX: [856] 722-5344

ATTORNEYS AT LAW SEVEN PENN CENTER 1635 MARKET STREET SEVENTH FLOOR PHILADELPHIA PENNSYLVANIA 19103 [215] 241-8888 FAX: [215] 241-8844 WWW.LAWSGR.COM

FLORIDA OFFICE: 360 CENTRAL AVENUE **SUITE 1550** ST. PETERSBURG, FL 33701 [727] 896-4600 FAX: [727] 896-4604

Bruce Thall DIRECT DIAL NUMBER

[215]241-8802

IF-MAII bthall@lawsgr.com

July 8, 2008

Via Email @oag.state.ny.us Andrew Elmore, Esquire Judith Marblestone, Esquire Julian Birnbaum, Esquire Richard Balletta, Esquire Assistant Attorney General State of New York Office of the Attorney General 120 Broadway

New York City, NY 10271

Response to Your Settlement Proposal and

Counter Proposal of Dreamland

Dear Andrew:

The enclosed constitutes the substantive response of our clients to the settlement offer promulgated by the Office of the Attorney General of the State of New York, together with an explanation of the predicates on which it is founded.

Dreamland itself conducts its mobile carnival business, generally partnering with charitable, non-profit organizations as part of their fund-raising efforts, along the East Coast of the United States, in 2008 operating in Georgia, North Carolina, Connecticut, New Hampshire, Vermont, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, and New York State. Your Office purports to have the power to challenge my clients' performance under the totality of Dreamland's contract with the United States Department of Labor, even though only a small percentage of its business is conducted at locations in New York.

We have previously provided to you the authorities disclosing that our clients are an amusement enterprise, so that they are exempt from the wages and hours and overtime strictures of the Fair Labor Standards Act, 29 U.S.C. § 201, et seq., and specifically section 13 thereunder, and the complementing federal regulations, codified at 29 C.F.R. 779.385. Similarly, we have previously provided to you 12 New York Codes Rules and Regulations 142-2.2 (and 142-3.2), which include the FLSA exemption of our clients from the wages and hours strictures, through adopting the exemptions set forth in the Fair Labor Standards Act, including the exemption for amusement enterprises.

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As a result, no employee of our clients has any claim of entitlement to wages, hours or overtime work standards as set forth in federal or New York Code, regardless of whether the worker is a natural born citizen or an alien.¹

At our meeting, you disclosed that the New York Office of the Attorney General is not proceeding under wages, hours or overtime as set forth in the FLSA or New York Code. Rather, your theory is based upon a contract between our clients and the United States Department of Labor. In this regard, you assert that our clients have engaged in repeated or persistent fraud or illegality in the conducting of its carnival business, and specifically with regard to federal Department of Labor forms ETA-750 (Applications for Alien Employment Certification). You contend that in signing those United States Department of Labor form contracts for each of three years, 2006, 2007, and 2008, Dreamland alone, and not our other clients, contracted under penalty of perjury to the United States to pay United States Department of Labor prevailing wages to non-immigrant, H-2B seasonal employees obtained by others for our clients for their mobile carnival; further, you contend that our clients breached the contracts, and that the breach of the contract with the United States Department of Labor gives the New York Office of the Attorney General jurisdiction over what you deem to be the fraudulent misrepresentations, pursuant to New York Executive Law § 63(12), even though the contract was exclusively entered into with and approved by the United States Department of Labor.

The federal forms ETA-750 contain columns for estimated hours per week, estimated overtime hours, estimated weekly wages, and estimated weekly overtime at boxes 10 and 12. Only estimates can be made on signing the form, because on application to the United States Department of Labor, the final schedule of carnival locations and dates, and hours consumed on each date have not been determined. The estimates are not a guarantee of the number of hours that each H-2B worker will be asked to perform during each week.

Were there any questions regarding these facts or their interpretation, the United States Department of Labor is the sole entity which can answer them.

It is difficult to conceive how anyone could view the affixation of a signature by Dreamland to constitute a guarantee of specified hours of work per week. Moreover, precisely because the FLSA and New York Analog exempt American citizens who work for Dreamland

You also averred that my clients violated Civil Rights statutes because, inter alia, the porto-johns they lease for use at carnival sites are not sufficiently clean and because workers, including H-2B aliens, are forced to work in inclement weather. The short answers are sue the lessors and buy yourself a rain slicker at Family Dollar. The power of your Office to bring Civil Rights claims is not otherwise addressed in this response.

The United States Department of Labor forms ETA-750 were submitted by Dreamland Amusements, only, and not by Toy Circus or Crossroads. In fact, none of the latter have any H-2B non-agricultural, seasonal employees.

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from wages and hours strictures, your construction of the United States Department of Labor forms ETA-750 would create the anomalous situation of alien workers being guaranteed more money for displacing American workers than the American workers would receive for performing those services. Such a conundrum ignores and undercuts the express policy of the United States in creating its H-2B programs in the first instance. See, e.g., 8 U.S.C. § 1101(a)(4)(ii)(B).

Putting facts and logic aside however, your Office lacks the right or power to claim jurisdiction over or standing to pursue the averments that our clients have engaged in repeated or persistent fraud or illegality through your contention that they failed to pay prevailing wages per contract wit the United States Department of Labor to the H-2B seasonal employees, as set forth below.³

PREEMPTION AND THE SUPREMACY CLAUSE

Resisting the temptation to refer you to treatises on Federal Preemption and the Supremacy Clause, suffice it to say for purposes of your investigation that the powers of Congress over Commerce and Immigration, as set forth in Article I, Section 8, Clauses 3 and 4 of the Constitution, are exclusive and paramount, and hold sway over states, as required by Article VI, Clause 2, known as the Supremacy Clause. The paramount and exclusive jurisdiction is even more pointed following the aftermath of the plane hijackings that occurred on September 11, 2001, and the resulting plethora of federal enactments governing aliens and the conduct of their entry into the United States by the federal government as part of its comprehensive immigration program.

Every aspect of immigration, including that pertaining to seasonal workers, is specifically set forth at length in phone book sized volumes within the United States Code and the Code of Federal Regulation.

Federal Statutes and Federal Regulations

8 U.S.C. § 1101(a)(H)(ii)(b) sets out Congress's power to enact laws governing aliens residing in a foreign country which they have no intention of abandoning who come to the United States "to perform temporary service or labor if unemployed persons capable of performing such service or labor cannot be found in this country." Exercising that power, the Secretary of Homeland Security, the Attorney General of the United States, and the Secretary of

Whether the United States Department of Justice could prosecute such claims as false statements under 18 U.S.C. § 1001, or as mail fraud under 18 U.S.C. § 1341, or under RICO pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 1961 is unclear in view of primacy of the regulatory scheme involving the Departments of Homeland Security, Labor, Agriculture and Justice. E.g., Hoffman Plastics Compounds, Inc. v. NLRB, 535 U.S. 137 (2002). What is clear is that the New York Office of Attorney General has no such power.

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the Department of Labor have been exclusively vested with the "administration and enforcement of the chapter and all other laws relating to the immigration and naturalization of aliens," as set forth therein. See 8 U.S.C. § 1102(a). The powers so vested are virtually co-extensive with the power to regulate immigration. See, e.g., 8 U.S.C. § 1103, including (g) thereunder.

A sub-set of that broad grant of power is found within 8 U.S.C. § 1184, headed "Admission of Non-Immigrants." Under that statute, subsection (a), hinges admission of any alien as a non-immigrant "for such time and other such conditions" as the Executive Branch may prescribe. Within that Section are provisions imposing fraud prevention and detection fees upon employers filing false forms ETA-750 and other petitions, 8 U.S.C. § 1184(c)(13)(A), and (B). The statute also empowers the Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security to hold hearings and, after notice and an opportunity to be heard, impose fines and penalties upon an employer who submits a false or fraudulent application in order to obtain, *inter alia*, H-2B employees. 8 U.S.C. § 1184(c)(14)(A).

The Code of Federal Regulations contains more than 30 pages addressing only seasonal alien temporary workers. 8 C.F.R. § 214.2(h)(1), et seq., extending for 30 pages within the Code of Federal Regulations, sets forth the procedure governing and representations by contract with the United States Department of Labor binding upon petitioner seeking H-2B workers, including wages and other terms and conditions of employment. The Secretary of Labor wields both the jurisdiction and power to address instances in which the petitioning employer has failed to meet the statutorily required contractual conditions for obtaining the seasonal alien laborers. Under § 214.2(h)(11)(B), the Director may revoke a petition at any time, even after its expiration, based upon the petitioner's statements of facts contained in the position being "not true and correct," or that petitioner had "violated terms and conditions of the approved petition" or other standards set forth therein.

No wonder there is preemption. The statute itself provides for preemption. Indeed, 8 U.S.C. § 1324(a)(h)(2) reads in its entirety:

The provisions of the section preempt any state or local law imposing civil or criminal sanctions (other than through licensing and similar laws) upon those who employ, or recruit or refer for a fee for employment, unauthorized aliens.

Even were there no statutory preemption, nonetheless the law would compel it.

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CASE LAW

Not surprisingly, the case law interpreting the scope and breath of the federal statutory and regulatory components governing immigration and including seasonal workers has denied to all others the jurisdictional power or standing to raise claims otherwise within the four corners of the Congressional enactments and Federal Code provisions. Indeed, in *Hoffman Plastic Compounds, Inc. v. National Labor Relations Board*, 535 U.S. 137, 147-48 (2002), the Supreme Court denied to a federal entity — the National Labor Relations Board — the authority to construe its enabling legislation to include giving back pay awards to aliens unauthorized to work in view of the overarching primacy of Title 8 of the United States Code.

Thus, it is not surprising that every Court which has considered the issue has determined that the comprehensive federal scheme preempts any state regulation, even if nonconflicting or parallel, and that there is no private right of enforcement. See, e.g., Hines v. Davidowitz, 312 U.S. 52, 66-67 (1941) (striking down a Pennsylvania alien registration statute on grounds of federal pre-emption, observing "where the federal government in the exercise of its superior authority in this field, has enacted a complete scheme of regulation ... states cannot, inconsistently with the purpose of Congress, conflict or interfere with, curtail or complement, the federal law, or enforce additional or excilarary regulations."); Takahashi v. Fish & Game Comm'n, 334 U.S. 410, 419 (1948) ("states can neither add to nor take from the conditions lawfully imposed by Congress upon admission, naturalization and residence of aliens in the United States or the several states."); accord Gade v. Nat'l Solid Waste Management Assoc., 505 U.S. 88, 108 (1992); Perry v. Thomas, 482 U.S. 483 (1987); DeCanas v. Bico, 424 U.S. 351, 355 (1976); Spina v. Department of Homeland Sec., 470 F.3d 116, 127-28 (2nd Cir. 2006)(using federal law to construe applicability, if any, of Connecticut statute to federal sentencing enhancement guidelines because, inter alia, "the immigration laws contain no provision indicating that they are to be interpreted in accordance with state law."); Chavez v. Freshpict Foods, Inc., 456 F.2d 890, 893-96 (10th Cir. 1972); Arizona Contractors Ass'n, Inc. v. Candelaria, 534 F.Supp.2d 1036 (D. Ariz. 2008); Lozano v. City of Hazleton, 496 F.Supp.2d 477, 517-528 (M.D.Pa. 2007); Shah v. Wilco Systems, Inc., 126 F.Supp.2d 641, 648-49 (S.D.N.Y. 2000); United States v. Richard Dattner Architects, 972 F.Supp. 738, 742 (S.D.N.Y. 1997); Chavez v. Freshpict Foods, Inc., 322 F.Supp. 146 (D.Colo. 1971); Younus v. Shabat, 336 F.Supp. 1137, 1140 (N.D.III. 1971).

And, without a private cause of action, there is no "parens patriae" jurisdiction permitting your Office to become involved in the matters you state are under investigation. The remedies are distinctly federal. See, e.g., Castellanos- Contreras v. Decadur Hotels, LLC, 488 F.Supp.2d 565 (E.D. La. 2007). Put another way, there is not a single case that holds that a state has the power or standing to pursue a person or entity for alleged false statements to the United States Department of Labor to obtain seasonal workers.

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From the Supremacy Clause set forth in Article VI, Clause 2, the powers over commerce and immigration vested in Congress pursuant to Article I, Clause 8, and the authorities set forth, *supra*, it is painfully obvious that the New York Office of the Attorney General lacks any power with respect to the matter that it contends is under investigation. The substance and breadth of such investigation reside solely and exclusively within the federal government.

That being the case, it is our considered view that your proceeding with your investigation will do nothing other than force our clients to bear substantial legal costs and fees while resulting in an opinion holding that your Office lacks jurisdiction over the matter under investigation.

It is because of the costs and fees, however, that I am authorized to submit to you a formal response to your settlement proposal. I am authorized to represent that our clients are willing to enter into a consent decree, based on no admission of wrongdoing, that results in an order enforceable by you for breach, if such decree will close your investigation and, therefore, end the costs attendant to our clients' unwilling participation in these proceedings. In addition, our client will pay the sum of \$35,000, in acknowledgement of the costs and expenses you have incurred in connection with your investigation, albeit one over which you lack jurisdiction.

I would propose that the consent agreement include a weekly wage rate for the periods of time within which our clients' mobile carnival is set up in New York. I would not presume to suggest what other reasonable conditions you deem important or appropriate; however, as I have advised you since the inception of our representation, our clients are more than willing to agree to any reasonable terms and conditions of a consent order.

Alternatively, we encourage you to submit the fruits of your investigation to the United States Department of Labor. That Department has the jurisdiction and standing to address whatever issue you deem important.

I look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

Bruce L. Thall

SPECTOR GADON & ROSEN, P.C. ATTORNEYS AT LAW

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